



SPEAKING NOTES FOR

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NUNAVUT LANDS AND RESOURCES

DEVOLUTION PROTOCOL

SIGNING CEREMONY

OTTAWA

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- **I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY TO SIGN THE NUNAVUT LANDS AND RESOURCES DEVOLUTION PROTOCOL.**
- **IT IS AN IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR THE FEDERAL AND NUNAVUT GOVERNMENTS, AND NTI, TO HAVE REACHED THIS AGREEMENT.**
- **ONE OF THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE NUNAVUT LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT IS ARTICLE FOUR.**
- **ARTICLE FOUR PROVIDES FOR THE SETTING UP OF THE TERRITORY AND GOVERNMENT OF NUNAVUT.**
- **IT WAS UNDERSTOOD AT THE TIME WHEN THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED THAT THE NUNAVUT GOVERNMENT WAS TO BE A GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD DEVELOP ITS JURISDICTION OVER TIME, LIKE THE OTHER TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, AND WOULD BE ABLE TO BUILD UP ITS OWN ECONOMIC BASE.**
- **FOR EXAMPLE YUKON COMPLETED ITS DEVOLUTION PROCESS IN 2002.**

- **NTI'S OBJECTIVES IN ENTERING THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT IS FULLY RESPECTED,**
- **DEVOLUTION OF GREATER POWERS OVER NUNAVUT'S LANDS AND WATERS IS CARRIED OUT IN A WAY THAT MAKES LIFE BETTER FOR INUIT AND ALL PEOPLE IN NUNAVUT.**
- **I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN SHAPE A DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT THAT IS GOOD FOR INUIT, NUNAVUT, AND CANADA AS A WHOLE.**
- **I SAY "CANADA AS A WHOLE" BECAUSE THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF NUNAVUT, AND BETTER SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOR INUIT, BENEFIT CANADA AS A WHOLE.**
- **CANADA'S ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY IS IN THE NEWS A GREAT DEAL.**
- **THE NUNAVUT LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT STATES THAT INUIT USE AND OCCUPANCY OF ARCTIC LANDS AND WATERS GIVES CANADA'S SOVEREIGNTY A STRONG FOUNDATION.**
- **LET US USE DEVOLUTION NEGOTIATIONS TO BUILD ON THAT FOUNDATION AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO THAT**

**ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
INUIT AND OTHER CANADIANS THAT MUST BE AT THE
HEART OF SUCCESSFUL ARCTIC POLICY MAKING.**

- **WE LOOK FORWARD TO BEGINNING THE FORMAL
NEGOTIATIONS.**